

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03699 221622Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1875

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TAGS: PFOR, NL, CH

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS OF CHOU-EN-LAI'S CONVERSATION WITH DUTCH
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

REF: THE HAGUE 3580

1. SUMMARY. DUTCH PRESS REPORTS AUG 22 THAT CHOU-EN-LAI WARNED VISITING DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION NOT TO TRUST DETENTE. CHINESE PM ADVISED AGAINST DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN MBFR AND SAID ONLY STRONG UNITED EUROPE COULD GUARANTEE EUROPEAN SECURITY AND PEACE. CHOU DISCOUNTED SALT NEGOTIATIONS, IN VIEW CONTINUED SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS RACE. OFFICIAL DUTCH REACTION TO PRESS REPORTS OF CHOU'S STATEMENTS CAME LATE AUG 21 FROM FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WHO SAID PRC VIEWS ON TROOP NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE WERE KNOWN TO HIM AND THAT NETHERLANDS WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN MBFR. END SUMMAR.

2. CONSERVATIVE TELEGRAAF (LARGEST DUTCH DAILY) AND LEFT-WING VOLKSKRANT FRONT-PAGED DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS' RECEPTION BY CHINESE PRIME MINISTER CHOU-EN-LAI ON AUG 22. IN ITS AFP ACCOUNT, TELEGRAAF REPORTED THAT CHOU BEGAN HIS ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION WITH DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS BY GIVING LONG HISTORY OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 THE HA 03699 221622Z

CHINESE DEVELOPMENTS, STRESSING AMERICAN AND SOVIET EFFORTS AT

YALTA AND TO SHARE INFLUENCE IN CHINA. AFTER HISTORICAL RESUME, CHINESE PRIME MINISTER SAID WESTERN EUROPE MUST CONTINUE EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS OWN DEFENSE. HE URGED DUTCH NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN MBFR, AND SAID NEITHER US NOR SOVIETS COULD BE TRUSTED. PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT PRC WAS "PREPARED FOR ALL POSSIBILITIES", AND THAT NO ENEMY WOULD EVER SUCCEED IN SETTING FOOT ON CHINESE SOIL. IN ADDITION TO STRICTURES ON MBFR, CHOU WARNED PARLIAMENTARIANS TO HAVE NO TRUST WHATSOEVER IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE NOT CREDIBLE GIVEN CONTINUING SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS BUILD-UP. ASKED BY D-66 PARLIAMENTARIAN VAN MIERLO WHETHER IT WAS AGAINST CHINESE INTEREST FOR SOVIETS TO HAVE HANDS FREE FOR ACTIONS AGAINST PEKING, CHOU REPORTEDLY MISUNDERSTOOD QUESTION AND DENIED HEATEDLY HE WAS FOMENTING WESTERN EUROPEANS TO WAR AGAINST SOVIET UNION. COUNTERING THAT CHINA WAS THREATENED BY AMERICA AND JAPAN IN THE EAST, BY INDIA IN THE SOUTH, AND BY RUSSIA IN THE NORTH, CHOU SAID THAT CHINESE ARE READY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES EVEN IF ALL OF THESE ENEMIES ATTACK AT THE SAME TIME.

3. PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION LEADER VONDELING SAID CHOU SEEMED TO BE ESPECIALLY WELL BRIEFED ON SITUATION IN NETHERLANDS. SESSION WITH PREMIER WAS NOT ON PARLIAMENTARIANS' SCHEDULE. AFTER LATE AFTERNOON SESSION WITH CHOU, NETHERLANDS DELEGATION OFFERED DINNER FOR THEIR CHINESE HOSTS IN WHICH FORMAL INVITATION FOR CHINESE RETURN VISIT WAS OFFERED.

4. DUTCH REACTION TO CHOU'S STRONG STATEMENTS WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AND MIXED. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL TOLD PRESS HERE THAT HE WAS AWARE OF CHINESE POSITION BUT DUTCH WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN MBFR DISCUSSIONS. OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY DEFENSE SPECIALIST IN SECOND CHAMBER CHOSE TO INTERPRET CHINESE WARNING AS ADVERSE COMMENT ON DEN UYL GOVT'S DEFENSE PLAN. LEFT-WING PACIFIST-SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIAN VAN DER SPEK TERMED CHOU'S REMARKS "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" AND POINTED OUT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY IN CHINA'S INTEREST TO PREVENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT. KVP PARLIAMENTARIAN DU CHATINIER NOTED SIMPLY THAT CHOU HAD USED OCCASION OF DUTCH VISIT TO INDICATE HOW BAD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND SOVIET UNION REALLY IS. ALL PARLIAMENTARIANS ASKED FOR COMMENT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION WOULD BRIEF ENTIRE SECOND CHAMBER ON THEIR VISIT SOON AFTER THEIR RETURN.

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PAGE 03 THE HA 03699 221622Z

5. COMMENT: AS FOREIGN MINISTER POINTED OUT, THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN WHAT CHINESE SAID BUT FACT THAT PRC'S PRIME MINISTER TOOK TIME TO EXPRESS THIS VIEW SO FORCEFULLY WITH LARGE DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO DUTCH SELF-ESTEEM. DUTCH POLITICIANS UNLIKELY TO BE SWAYED BY CHOU'S REMARKS. NEVERTHELESS, LEFT-WING, WHICH IS KEEN ON DEFENSE CUTS, MAY FIND IT INCONVENIENT THAT CONSERVATIVE DUTCH OPPONENTS OF

SUCH CUTBACKS CAN CITE ONE OF WORLD'S PREEMINENT REVOLUTIONARIES
IN SUPPORT OF THEIR POSITION. CHOU'S REMARKS, GROUNDED IN REAL
POLITIK RATHER THAN REVOLUTIONARY IDEOLOGY, MAY ALSO "TURN OFF"
SOME OF THE YOUNG DUTCH LEFTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN THE CHICOMS'
MOST FERVENT ADMIRERS. MFA HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPORT ON VISIT
FROM NETHS EMBASSY IN PEKING, BUT MFA OFFICER (ERICH, CHINESE
AFFAIRS) PROMISED TO ALERT AND BRIEF EMBOFF WHEN REPORT
RECEIVED.
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